Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application and reflects the amendment of claim 11; the cancellation of claims 12 and 13; and the addition of new claims 16 and 17.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) Method of preparing a composition comprising mixing a silica sol having an S-value from about 15 to about 45 % and a mineral acid, wherein the weight ratio of silica to mineral acid is from about 1:100 to about 25:100.

2. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the S-value is from about 15 to about 40 %.

3. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the S-value is from about 15 to about 35 %.

4. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the silica sol has a specific surface area from about 400 to about 1200 m^2/g.

5. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the silica sol has a specific surface area from about 500 to about 1000 m^2/g.

6. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the silica sol has a specific surface area from about 600 to about 900 m^2/g.

7. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim[s] 1[-6], wherein the mineral acid is sulphuric acid.

8. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein the mineral acid is hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, phosphoric acid, and mixtures thereof.

9. (Previously Presented) Method according to claim 1, wherein orthophosphoric acid and/or sodium sulphate is further added.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Currently amended) Method ~~of producing a battery comprising providing a composition~~ according to claim 1, wherein the content of chloride in the silica sol is lower than about 50 ppm by weight.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (New) Method according to claim 1, wherein the mineral acid has a pH ranging from about -2 to about 2.

17. (New) Method according to claim 16, wherein the mineral acid has a pH ranging from about -1.5 to about 1.